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18 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : Comment on Report that Ydígoras and
Peralta Assisted Ex-President Areválo's
Return to Guatemala

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1. The report passed to the State Department by [REDACTED] that Defense Minister Peralta assisted Areválo to return to Guatemala in late March, and that Peralta was close to Arbenz, is probably false.

2. We agree with Ambassador Bell's statement that "for Peralta to have connived in the entry of Areválo is entirely out of character with everything we know of him and his personality." In fact, Areválo's return, and the suspicion that Ydígoras may have permitted it, seem to have precipitated Peralta's decision to count the president after many months of hesitation and refusal to join in active plotting. During almost the entire Arbenz regime, Peralta served as Guatemalan representative to the Inter-American Defense Board in "diplomatic exile."

3. Ydígoras apparently made very little effort to avert Areválo's return, but there is no evidence that he actually had a hand in it. Despite some tardy gestures and threats against Areválo, Ydígoras almost certainly wanted to avoid doing anything to antagonize a man he considered the most likely future president of Guatemala. Ydígoras wished to insure his peaceful retirement in Guatemala. Ydígoras' ambiguous attitude toward Areválo may also have been a facet of Ydígoras' dissatisfaction with the United States government. His constant maneuverings, equivocations and posturings are based strictly on self-interest.

4. [REDACTED] may have facilitated Areválo's return but there is no proof this was sponsored by the government.

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